LUKE PEARSON

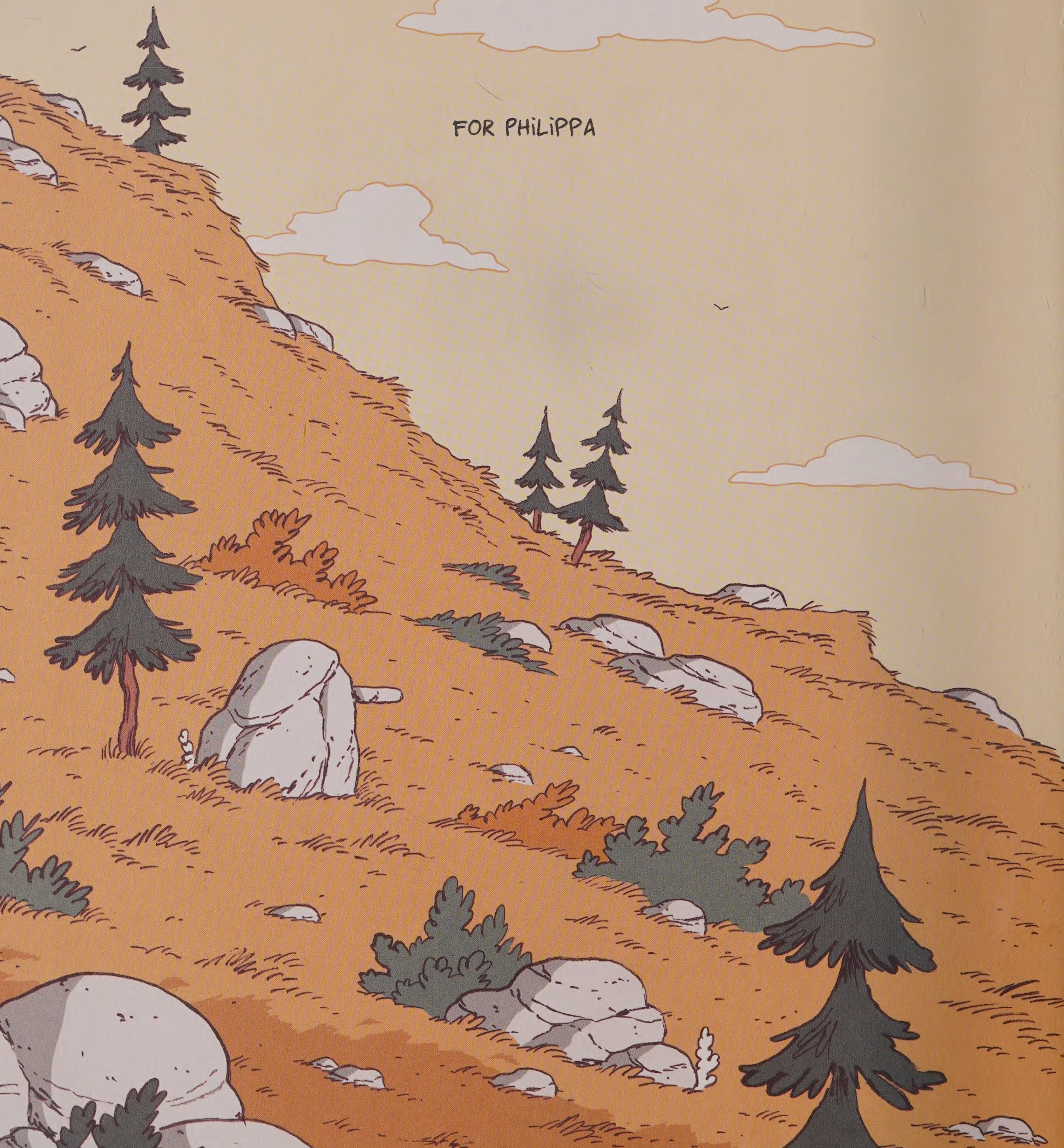
HILDA AND THE STONE FOREST

FLYING EYE BOOKS

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

_____

FOR PHILIPPA



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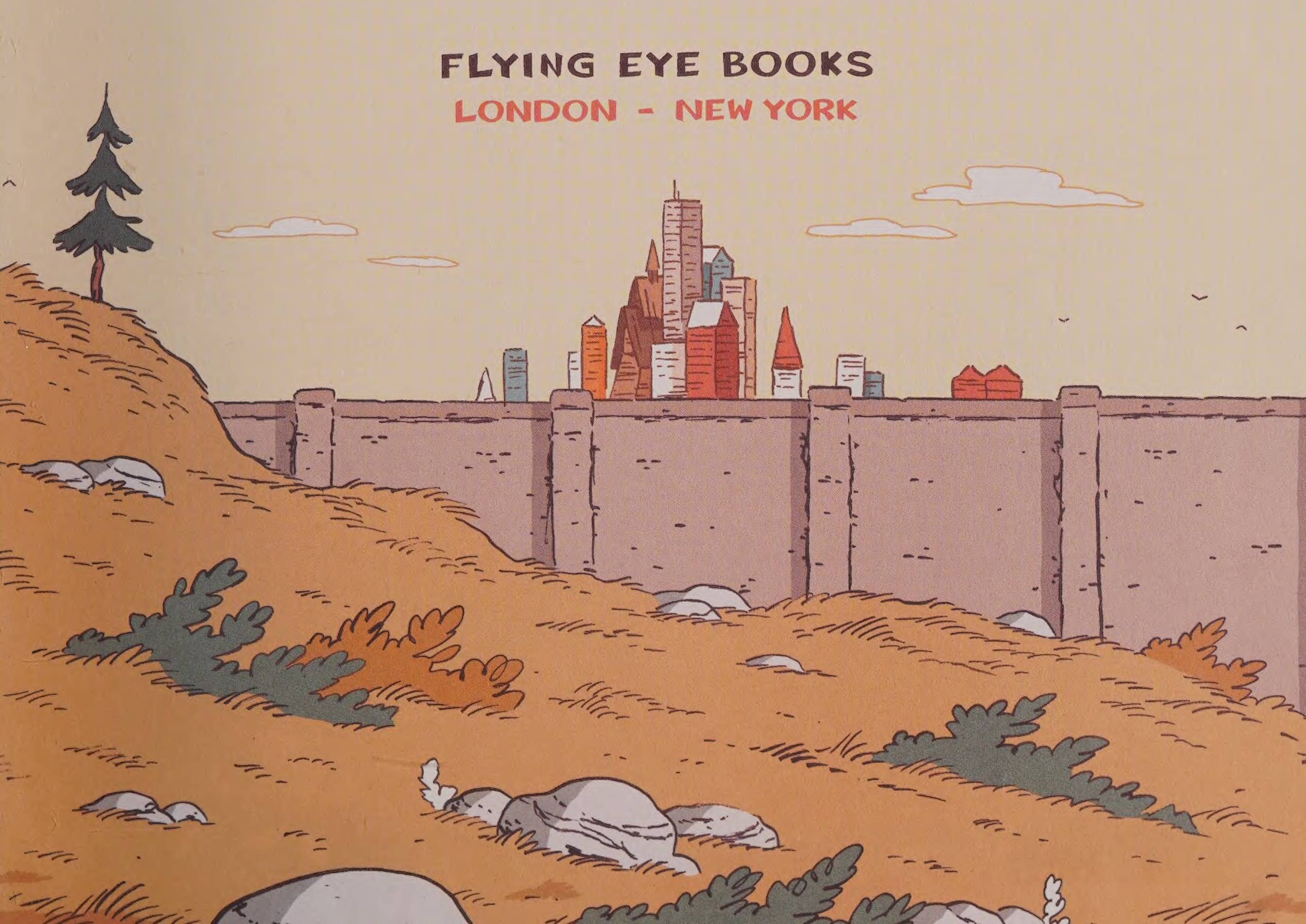
LONDON - NEW YORK



THE CITY OF TROLBERG

HHEELLPP!!

SOMEBODY STOP THIS THHIIINNNGGG

UP THERE!

TFFT

AGH!

TROLLS..

IT'S OK TWIG. THEY'RE STONE. THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS...

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE HERE

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...

HUH?

AH HA.

GOT YOU.

I'LL TAKE THAT

BONG

BONG

I'M NOT. I SAW A TROLL THOUGH. A BUNCH OF THEM. IN THE TREES OVER THERE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

HOW ARE THERE TROLLS ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL?

YOU ARE NOT A TROLL.

WHICH SIDE OF THE WALL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ON, KID?

WHOOPS. WE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED THE TRAIN TRACKS THROUGH WHEN WE WERE CHASING THAT THING..

MUM WOULD KILL ME IF SHE KNEW.

YOU.. DO KNOW TROLLS TURN TO STONE DURING THE DAY, RIGHT?

SORRY FOR BEING JUMPY. THEY CLEARED MY FIELD OUT LAST NIGHT.

THEY DON'T NORMALLY COME THIS CLOSE TO THE WALL BUT THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE LATELY.

LOOK, THEY TOOK MY GOAT..

THAT'S TERRIBLE

YEP

WELL.. I'M GOING TO EAT MY DINNER NOW..

DINNER! I'M MEANT TO BE HOME FOR SUNDAY DINNER

SORRY, GUYS. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR VILLAGE LATER.

HOW ARE YOU DOING IN THERE ANYWAY?

WE'RE OK..

ALRIGHT, TWIG. LET'S GET HOME.

AHEM.

NOT YOU!

HEY, I'M SORRY I'M LATE!

I TOTALLY LOST TRACK OF TIME. I THINK MY WATCH IS BROKEN

AND I FORGOT TO TAKE IT OUT WITH ME SO THAT DIDN'T HELP EITHER

AND THEN TWIG WOULDN'T STOP CHASING THIS DOG...

..AND THEN YOU FORGET HOW LONG IT TAKES TO WALK UP THAT HILL TO THE FLAT...

ANYWAY... PHEW! I'M HOME NOW SO..

MUNCH

MUNCH

SLOP

MM..

MUNCH

HOW'S DAVID?

MUNCH

MMF?

DAVID. YOU WENT TO DAVID'S HOUSE?

THAT'S... WHERE YOU JUST CAME FROM, RIGHT?

...

YEAH, DAVID'S FINE. WE JUST WATCHED A VIDEO.

WHY IS YOUR JUMPER COVERED IN DIRT?

MUST HAVE BEEN AN EXCITING VIDEO.

WE PLAYED IN THE GARDEN AFTERWARDS...

..THIS PIE IS AMAZING. THANKS FOR MAKING IT, MUM.

OHH YOU'RE WELCOME. I USED SOME OF THE ROSEMARY WE GREW IN THE HERB BOX.

CAN YOU TELL?

MM.. SORT OF.

THE PASTRY WENT A LITTLE SOGGY AT THE BOTTOM

I THINK MAYBE I OVER-FILLED IT

I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A PIE THAT'S TOO FULL.

WOULD YOU LAMENT A LIFE TOO FULL OF HAPPINESS?

YOU'RE NOT THE WOOD MAN, TONTU.

SOOO, I DON'T HAVE ANY WORK TO DO THIS AFTERNOON SO I WAS THINKING WE COULD TRY OUT THAT NEW GAME I PICKED UP. DUNGEON CROPS.

ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT I'D GO BACK OUT AGAIN AFTERWARDS...

YOU'VE BEEN OUT ALL DAY..

BUT I'VE GOT TO..

UM..

PF

.. I BUMPED INTO PETER AND SOME OTHER KIDS FROM SPARROW SCOUTS ON THE WAY HOME AND I SAID I'D GO OVER TO THE PARK

PLOP

HILDA..

MUM, I SAID.

YOU'RE REALLY JUST GOING TO THE PARK? YOU'RE NOT.. MESSING AROUND WITH ANY.. GIANT CREATURES..?

..OR DOING ANYTHING ... DANGEROUS... OR ANYTHING?

HAHA, NO!!

I WON'T BE VERY LONG! I'LL BE BACK FOR SUPPER! I CAN.. I CAN DO THE WASHING - UP BEFORE I GO. I CAN- UHHH..

NO, NO, IT'S OKAY. I'LL CLEAN UP.

GO.

ALLRRIGHT.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO OVER THERE?

I DON'T KNOW

... KICK A BALL AROUND.

PROBABLY JUST..

SO

HOORAY!

THEY'RE BACK!

THREE CHEERS FOR HILDA!

HEEYY DON'T MENTION IT. YOU'RE WELCOME, YOU'RE WELCOME.

!

HAVE A GOOD EVENING YOU GUYS

AND IF THE GROUND STANDS UP AND WALKS OFF WITH ANY MORE HOUSES-

-WELL... HOPEFULLY IT WON'T.

THAT DIDN'T TAKE AS LONG AS I THOUGHT. I GUESS WE SHOULD GO HOME.

WELL, MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO GO HOME JUST YET.

I'M JUST GOING TO GO FOR A QUICK WALK

JUST TAKING TWIG OUT FOR A RUN

I'M JUST GOING TO GET SOME FRESH AIR.

BE SAFE!

I WILL BE!

I'M GOING TO MEET DAVID. I WON'T BE LONG.

I'M JUST TAKING THIS BOOK BACK TO THE LIBRARY, OKAY MUM?

THE PUDDLES AROUND HERE ARE OUTRAGEOUS.

IT'S THESE DUSTY STREETS. IT JUST SEEMS TO STICK TO ME.

WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING, IT'S NOT THAT.

YEAH, THE LIBRARY WAS FINE.

I'M HEADING OUT FOR THE DAY. I'LL SEE YOU LATER

NO. YOU'RE SPENDING THE DAY WITH ME TODAY

WHY?

BECAUSE I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO DO AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE IF YOU CAME AND HELPED ME.

AND BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE JUST GOING TO PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS

WHAT? MUM

AND BECAUSE I SAID SO

AND IT'LL BE FUN!

PRECIOUS STONES

ECIOUS ONES

THIS ISN'T SO BAD IS IT?

HEY, WHY DON'T WE GET SOME STUFF FOR A PICNIC!

PICNIC AREA

LOOK AT ALL THESE COPYCATS..

I THINK I SEE A SPOT OVER THERE

THIS IS NO WAY TO HAVE A PICNIC

LET'S FIND SOMEWHERE MORE EXCITING TO SIT

HILDA, I DON'T THINK WE CAN JUST..

-OOH.

WELL, THIS IS QUITE NICE.

UM, EXCUSE ME..

MIGHT I ASK WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN MY GARDEN?

SO

WELL THAT WAS EMBARRASSING.

WHAT ABOUT OVER THERE

NO, NOT HERE

WHY NOT?

THAT HILL JUST GIVES ME THE CREEPS OKAY.

HERE!

HERE?

THERE'S A DOG LOOKING AT US.

AT LAST.

THIS IS QUITE A NICE SPOT ACTUALLY.

RING RING

OH! I'LL JUST GET THAT

I THINK THIS GAME'S PRETTY SIMPLE REALLY

I'LL PICK IT UP AS WE PLAY.

RULES

HELLO? OH HELLO! ... NO, NOT TONIGHT I'M AFRAID... ..YES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK TO HER ANY- OH OKAY. WELL SAY HELLO TO YOUR MUM FOR ME... OKAY BYE! ..BYE.

RULES

WHO WAS THAT?

THAT WAS FRIDA ASKING IF YOU COULD SLEEP AT HERS TONIGHT.

AND YOU SAID NO?

I'M NOT DRIVING YOU ALL THE WAY OVER THERE TONIGHT. BESIDES I'VE GOT DINNER PLANNED. AND THIS GAME..

WE CAN PLAY THAT GAME ANY DAY.

YOU CAN GO TO FRIDA'S NEXT WEEK

MUM I JUST SPENT ALL DAY WITH YOU

SO? AM I SUCH BAD COMPANY?

NO, YOU'RE JUST..

..JUST A MUM!

HILDA..

WHY DO I HAVE TO KEEP YOU COMPANY ALL THE TIME?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT YOU SIT AROUND ON YOUR OWN ALL DAY AND DON'T HAVE ANY- ONE ELSE TO TALK TO!

UM..

HILDA, GO TO YOUR ROOM

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
IT'S YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WELLLL, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. I WAS IN TOWN.
THOUGHT I'D PAY MY OLD FRIEND A VISIT. SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
SO! WHADDAYA SAY? WANT TO GO FOR A FLY ABOUT OR SOME-THING?
WELL.. I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO..
SO GIMME ONE GOOD REASON WHY YOU SHOULDN'T!
I CAN THINK OF ONE
ALRIGHT LET'S DO IT!
OKAY! LLEEETT'S-
-GGOOO
WOAH WOAH WOAH NOT IN HERE!

Z...

PSST, FRIDA!

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SLEEP AT YOUR HOUSE TONIGHT.

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I MEAN.. THIS WORKS TOO.

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS SAFE?

YEAH! SURE IT I I SSS

WOOO!

AAAAHH

LOOK AT THAT! SOMETHING'S ON FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN!

THOSE ARE TROLL-FIRES. I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN A LONG TIME.

TROLLS LIT THOSE?

THEY'RE SIGNALS. WARNINGS.

TO REMIND THE CITY THAT THEY'RE STILL THERE...

THAT'S KIND OF CREEPY..

AGH!

HEY WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

FRIDA!

I THINK I SHOULD GO HOME NOW.

GOOD IDEA

SUPER QUIET OKAY..

KLK

OKAY. I'M PRETTY SURE THE COAST IS CLEAR

SO

HILDA YOU CAN'T DO THAT. YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY LIKE THAT

I DIDN'T RUN AWAY

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER

AND YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER

YOU DRAGGED FRIDA INTO IT TOO?? WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?

YOU COULD HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING! WHAT IF YOU FELL OFF -

NO ONE FELL OFF!

THAT'S NOT THE POINT, HILDA.

YOU'RE GROUNDED.

WHAT?

YOU ARE EXTREMELY GROUNDED.

NO GOING OUT -

NO FRIENDS. NO ADVENTURES.

YOU ARE NOT LEAVING THIS FLAT WITHOUT ME UNTIL I SAY SO

SLAM

AM I GROUNDED TOO?

YOU CAN GO

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

TROLL- FIRES AGAIN

WHAT DO THEY GET UP TO OUT THERE?

SO WILD AND FREE..

SIGH

I WANT TO BE OUT THERE, TONTU. IT'S NOT FAIR..

I WISH I WAS A TROLL.

FIREWORKS?

THEY MUST BE FOR THE BIRD PARADE..

HEY, WILL YOU TAKE ME UP TO THE ROOF QUICKLY SO I CAN WATCH?

NO.

COME ON. I'm NOT ASKING YOU TO BUST ME OUT, I JUST WANT A BETTER VIEW.

YOU'RE GROUNDED.

WHAT IF I TOLD MUM THAT SHE DIDN'T LOSE HER FAVOURITE BOWL..

..BUT THAT YOU BROKE IT AND HID THE EVIDENCE IN YOUR HIDEY HOLE.

HILDA? DO YOU WANT TO COME OUTSIDE AND WATCH THE FIREWORKS -

- WITH ME.. HILDA!

MUM!

IT- IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

DON'T YOU DARE GO IN THERE YOUNG LADY

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

HILDA, DO AS YOU'RE TOLD

AGH!

HILDA, YOU'VE GOT TO COME ALL THE WAY THROUGH! THIS IS REALLY-

MUM, NO!

YES!

-DANGEROUS!

AAAHHHH!!

AAGH!

AHH

UFF

!!

MUM!

ARE YOU..

HEY, HEY.. I'M ALRIGHT. ARE YOU?

YEAH. I THINK SO.

IS THIS... THE NISSE SPACE?

NO.. IT'S NOT.

THEN WHERE ARE WE?

I THINK SOMETHING WENT WRONG AND IT'S THROWN US OUT SOMEWHERE WE DIDN'T WANT TO BE..

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

DO WHAT? IF YOU'D JUST LISTENED TO ME..

MUM, THIS ONLY HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU GRABBED ME

DON'T YOU DARE BLAME THIS ON ME.

THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU WERE USING SOME.. MAGIC PORTAL TO SNEAK OUT OF THE HOUSE

AND YOU WENT AND MESSED EVERYTHING UP!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

HOME!

I GUESS. MAYBE IT'S THIS WAY.

GET BACK HERE! WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR TONTU. HE GOT US HERE, HE MUST BE ABLE TO FIND US.

YOU DON'T GET IT! TONTU COULD BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD RIGHT NOW.

WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE ENDED UP. HE'S NOT COMING FOR US..

WE'LL GET LOST IF WE JUST WANDER OFF..

WE'RE ALREADY LOST

COME ON, I THINK I SAW SOMEWHERE BACK THERE WE CAN GET SOME REST.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE WHERE WE'RE GOING WHEN THE SUN IS UP.

?

WHAT WAS THAT?

NOTHING.. DON'T WORRY

HUH. THAT'S WEIRD. MY WATCH SAYS IT'S TEN ALREADY.

BUT IT'S STILL SO DARK...

COME ON. I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE A MOVE.

SOON

YAWWWN

IT'S SO QUIET HERE.. THERE'S BARELY EVEN A BREEZE.

WHAT IF WE'RE DEAD?

WHAT IF WE ARE DEAD?

DON'T SAY STUPID THINGS LIKE THAT. WE'RE NOT DEAD.

WE'RE JUST IN THE WEIRDEST FOREST IN THE WORLD

I DON'T THINK IT'S EVEN A FOREST...

MAYBE WE CAN WALK A BIT FASTER

MUM, I'M THIRSTY...

ME TOO...

MUM

WHOOPS!

HM.

WE CAN DEFINITELY JUMP THAT

WELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO TRY.

WHAT? IT'LL BE EASY

WE'LL WALK 'TIL IT NARROWS OR WE FIND A CROSSING

MUM, COME ON! THIS IS STUPID!

AFTER SOME TIME

WATER!

DON'T DRINK THAT!

HUH? WHY?

IT'S STAGNANT

BUT IT MUST HAVE COME FROM SOMEWHERE

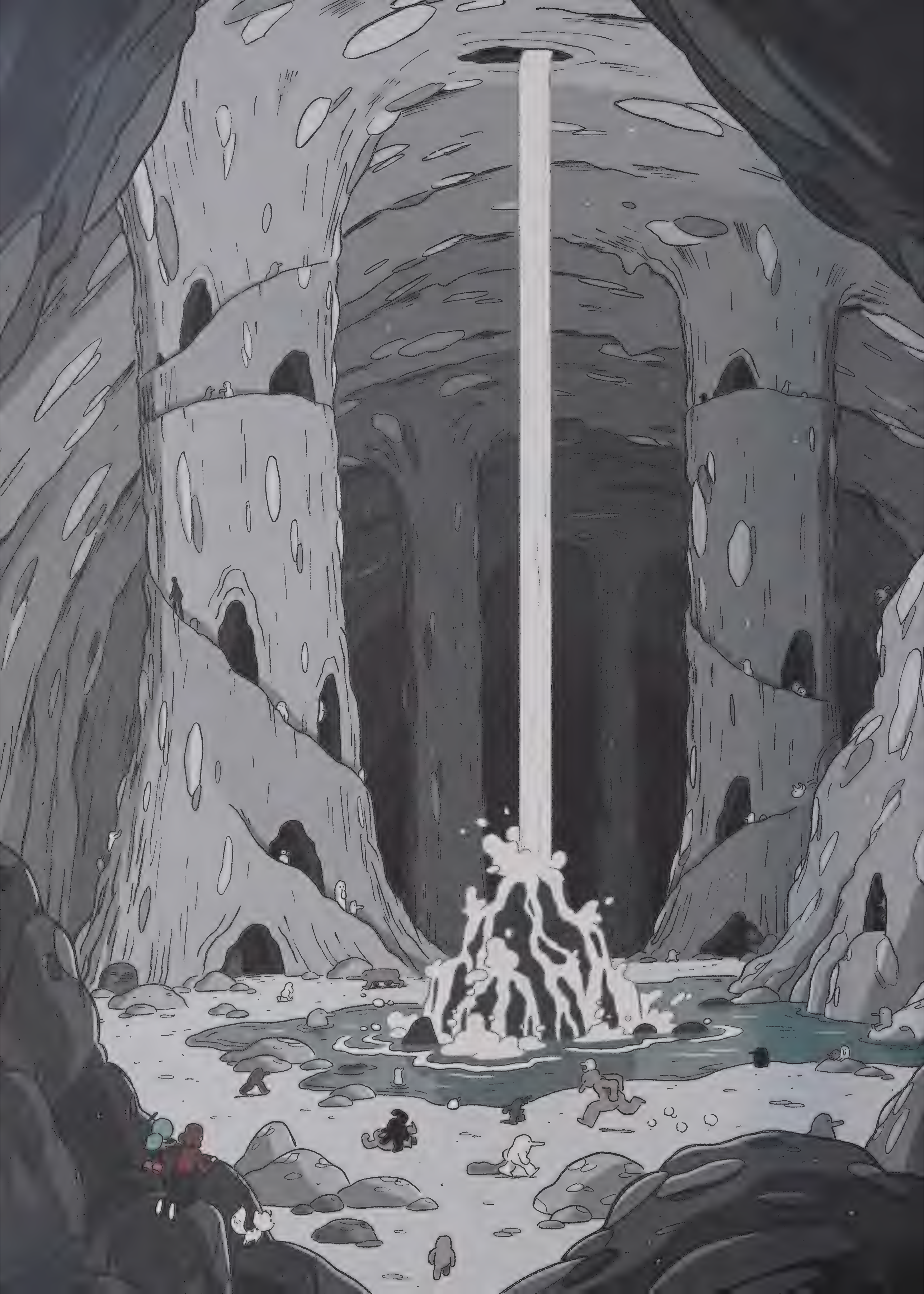
LISTEN!

I HEAR IT TOO..

DO YOU THINK...

IT'S GOT TO BE.

RUNNING WATER! COME ON!



TROLLS! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SO MANY IN ONE PLACE

I THINK IT'S OKAY! I MET A TROLL ONCE AND IT WAS FRIENDLY. AND HELPFUL!

THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ANYTHING.

I'VE MET PEOPLE WHO WERE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL A COUPLE OF TIMES..

LOOK. OVER THERE..

I BET WE CAN FOLLOW THE ROCKS ROUND TO WHERE THAT STREAM BRANCHES OFF

IF WE'RE JUST CAREFUL AND KEEP LOW, THEY WON'T SEE US.

REALLY? YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

YOU'RE THIRSTY AREN'T YOU?

SEE? NO PROBLEM.

GRRRUUHH...

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

BA BA BA BA BA BAHH BA

BA BAH BAH BA BA

BAH BA BA SHH SHH SSHH..

MUM, RUN!!

A DEAD END!

BA
BA BA

BA
BA

mm..

PSST MUM! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS.

IS THAT—

I THINK SO.

IT'S TROLBERG!

WE MUST HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN THE WHOLE TIME!

WE JUST HAVE TO WALK DOWN THE HILL! WE'LL BE HOME IN PRACTICALLY NO TIME

DO YOU THINK WE CAN SNEAK PAST WITHOUT THEM NOTICING?

I THINK WE JUST NEED TO CHOOSE OUR MOMENT AND SLIP AWAY...

WHAT A BULLY

THIS COULD BE OUR MOMENT...

?

CRUNCH

COME ON, LET'S GO. NOW.

KEEP GOING!

HA! HAHA! I THINK WE MADE IT!

WAIT

HUH?

WHERE'S TWIG?

OH NO NO NO NO

HILDA!

I'VE GOT TO GET HIM!

WAIT! HILDA-

NO!! NO GET OFF ME! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM

HEY HEY SHHHH —

LET GO OF ME!

LISTEN TO ME. I'M GOING TO GET HIM OK? YOU WAIT HERE. BEHIND THIS ROCK. AND DON'T MOVE.

STAY BEHIND THAT ROCK!

TWIG.! ARE YOU IN THERE?

COME ON, YOU'VE GOT TO COME OUT TWIG... WHERE ARE YOU..

OH.

ALRIGHT I'VE GOT YOU. NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE

Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

O..KAY...

HM..

THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY THROUGH

HELLO..

ZZZZZ

OK.. IT'S NOT A PROBLEM. THERE'S NO PROBLEM HERE.

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME OTHER WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE

?

A DEAD END. HM.

OOKAY... CAREFUL..

CAAREFULLL..

UHHH

WOBBLE

PHEW

KNOCK

THUNK

DSH!

Z

Z

Z

Z

Z

SMASH

ZZZZZ
ZZZZZZ

INTERESTING..

RRGH

MUNCH
MUNCH

THERE'S A SAFE CLIMB DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE.

COME ON, TWIG. WE'VE GOT TO GO NOW

..TWIG?

♫

♫

♫

RRRR

GRUH?

RRUUMMMBBLLLE

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T STAY BEHIND THAT ROCK

I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME! DID YOU *KNOW* THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

NO!

SOON

CAN YOU REMEMBER THE WAY OUT?

I THINK.. IT'S THIS WAY

THOUGH IT'S POSSIBLE I'M WRONG..

NONE OF THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR

NO... IT DOESN'T

IS THAT THE SAME TROLL FROM BEFORE?

I THINK SO..

I CAN'T TELL IF WE JUST GOT RESCUED OR IF WE'RE ABOUT TO GET EATEN

SHOULD WE RUN?

OH!

DO YOU THINK IT'S OK TO DRINK THIS..?

IT SMELLS GOOD...

GLUG GLUG ..

IT'S SWEET!

KIND OF TASTES LIKE HONEY

LET'S NOT RUN...

YEAH. LET'S NOT.

A LITTLE WHILE LATER

STRANGE. THIS FIRE DOESN'T SEEM TO GIVE OFF ANY HEAT AT ALL

HUH.

HEY, MUM! LOOK AT THIS

CAN YOU TELL WHO THESE ARE MEANT TO BE?

BA

LATER STILL

OH... IS THIS FOR US TO SLEEP?

BAH BA BA

I DON'T THINK WE'LL BOTH FIT UNDER THERE

DON'T WORRY

ME AND TWIG ARE WARM ENOUGH

BA!

HAHA, WHAT ARE YOU-

OOF! YOU'RE HEAVY!

BA BA

BA

WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU DESIGNING A BOARD GAME?

OUR KIND HOST HERE HAS DRAWN A MAP FOR US..

THIS IS GOING TO SHOW US THE SAFE WAY OUT... I THINK.

IT'S A LITTLE TRICKY TO FIGURE OUT THOUGH. DO YOU THINK THIS IS MEANT TO BE A WOFF?

DEEP BREATH

BLOW!

HEH.

WHERE'S HE OFF TO?

HE'S OFF TO.. THE CITY? IT'S A GUIDE!

IT'S GOING TO LEAD US OUT OF HERE! COME ON, LET'S NOT LOSE IT!

UH, BYE! THANKS!

SO

I HOPE IT'S NOT MUCH FURTHER. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN BEAR THIS PLACE.

DON'T YOU NORMALLY *LIKE* THIS SORT OF THING?

IT'S NICE TO BE IN PERIL WHEN I KNOW YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME AT HOME..

..WITH A NICE DINNER FOR ME, OR A FRESHLY BAKED CAKE... OR YOU WANT TO WATCH A MOVIE - WITH HOT CHOCOLATE, OF COURSE.

IT'S SORT OF UNNERVING THAT YOU'RE *HERE*.

BUT PLEASANTLY UNNERVING, RIGHT?

AAAGH

HELLO, AGAIN

TWIG, STAY RIGHT THERE-

TWIG NO!

NO!

KEEP GOING!

THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!

QUICK! IN HERE!

EW, WHY?

THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM...

I DON'T THINK IT GOES ANY FURTHER. BUT IT'S OKAY..

THEY'RE SCARED OF THESE THINGS I THINK. WE'LL BE SAFE IN HERE.

BUT-

-HOW DO WE GET OUT?

HEY! HEY, IT'S OKAY.

HILDA, I'M SO SORRY

IT'S OK! WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT. WE ALWAYS DO, RIGHT?

!

PANT

PANT

GASP!

THAT WAS...

..UNEXPECTED.

HEY... WHAT IS IT?

WE LOST THE GUIDE.. I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE OR HEADING DEEPER IN..

WE COULD BE HERE FOR..

WE MIGHT..

WE MIGHT NEVER..

RRGH, NO, I'M SORRY

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT. LET'S JUST FOCUS ON NOT GETTING EATEN BY-

-DID YOU HEAR THAT?

YES

YOU!?

YOU'RE STILL FOLLOWING ME??

AAAGH!!

BITE

MUM! WE'VE GOT A NEW GUIDE

FOLLOW THAT THING AND DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!

WHY ARE WE –

IT'S FROM THE OUTSIDE! IT GOT IN HERE SOMEHOW. IT *MUST* KNOW THE WAY OUT!

GRAHHH

FASTER!

I'M TRYING..

I CAN SEE THE LIGHT!

AAGH

MUM!!

HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE TO FIND US

I SAW WHERE YOU WERE THROWN OUT AFTER THE BREACH

I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET TO YOU

THE ENTRANCES TO THE MOUNTAIN ARE NOT EASY TO FIND

MUM, HE'S NOT A TABLE

YOU OFTEN CAN'T SEE THEM AT ALL

HE'S VERY EVEN THOUGH

LUCKILY THIS FRIEND OF YOURS WAS VERY DILIGENT ABOUT SNIFFING YOU OUT

REALLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH..

CRUNCHY CLODS

CAN I EAT ALL THIS?

SURE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, TONTU? DID YOU GET THROWN OUT SOME-WHERE WEIRD?

NO.

BEDTIME

THAT WAS QUITE SOMETHING WASNT IT

IT WAS..

BUT LOOKING BACK ON IT.. IT WAS KIND OF... FUN?

NO... NOT FUN

BUT, I MEAN.. IT MAKES AN OK STORY.

I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THOSE TROLLS

IT WAS KIND OF THEM TO TAKE US IN LIKE THAT

BA

I WISH WE COULD HAVE THANKED THEM PROPERLY

I'D LIKE TO GET THE RECIPE FOR THAT DRINK WE HAD

MM..

...

MUM?

YEAH?

I'M SORRY. ABOUT EVERY-THING

HEY.. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE

I DO ABOUT SOME THINGS. BUT---

...I CAN BE BETTER

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE BETTER

JUST DON'T HIDE THINGS FROM ME OKAY

I'M GLAD YOU'RE THE WAY YOU ARE. I'M PROUD OF YOU. BUT IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON, THEN HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE?

THAT'S KIND OF WORRYING FOR A MUM, YOU KNOW?

YOU REALLY DON'T WISH I WAS DIFFERENT?

HILDA,

I WOULDN'T CHANGE YOU FOR THE WORLD

JUST NO SNEAKING OUT TONIGHT, OK?

OH DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT

I'M NOT GETTING OUT OF BED FOR A WEEK

THE NEXT MORNING...

HILDA

I MADE SOMETHING FOR YOU

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SLEEP ALL DAY-

-AND I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU FOR NO REASON

SO I THOUGHT BREAKFAST IN BED MIGHT BE NICE

AND IF YOU'RE FEELING LIKE I AM THIS MORNING, YOU'RE GOING TO BE READY FOR THIS

..HILDA?

BA!

BA BA BA

WH-WHAT?

BA

I..

BA!

BAH

BAH BA BA

WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER?

BA

BAH BA BA BA

UHHH..

WHAT TIME IS IT?

MUM?

IS THAT YOU?

NO.. IT'S *YOU*...

BUT

HOW CAN I BE HERE?

AGH!

THESE AREN'T MY HANDS!

THIS ISN'T MY..

MY...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

TO BE CONTINUED...

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SPECIAL THANKS TO PHILIPPA RICE, EVERYONE AT NOBROW AND FLYING EYE, EM PARTRIDGE, JON MCNAUGHT, BJORN RUNE LIE, HANNA K, KURT MUELLER AND ALL MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

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PUBLISHED BY FLYING EYE BOOKS, AN IMPRINT OF NOBROW LTD.
27 WESTGATE STREET, LONDON, E8 3RL
PUBLISHED IN THE US BY NOBROW (US) INC.

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Paper from responsible sources
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PRINTED IN LATVIA ON FSC ASSURED PAPER
ISBN 978-1-909263-74-1

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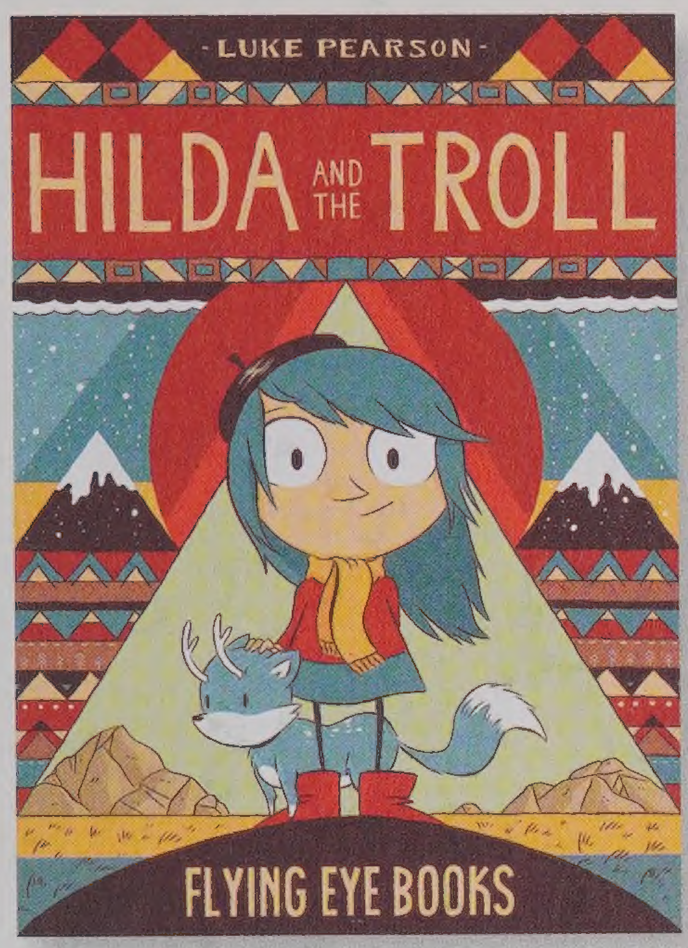

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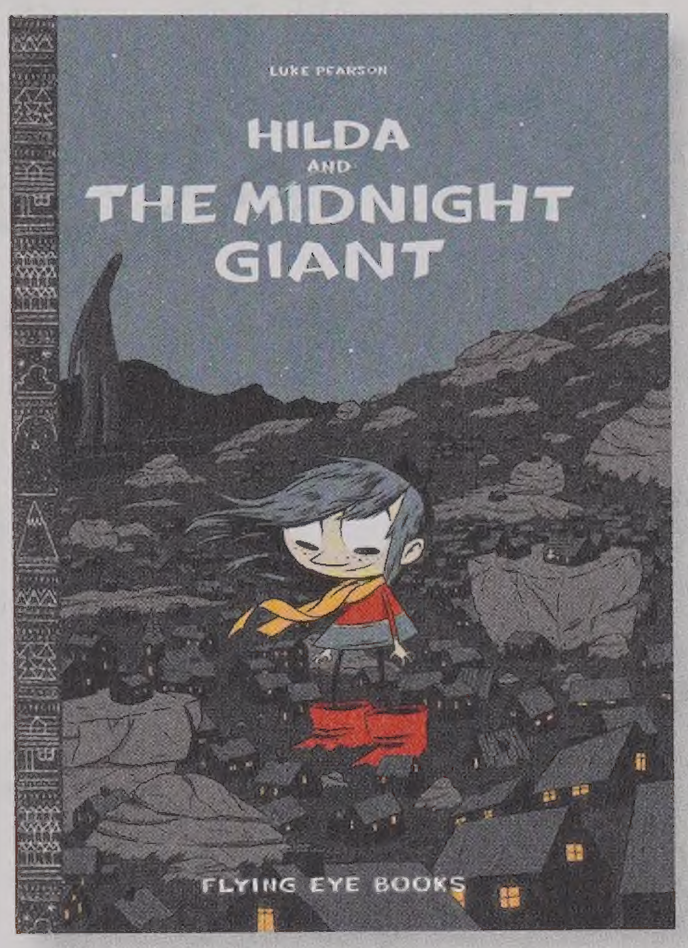

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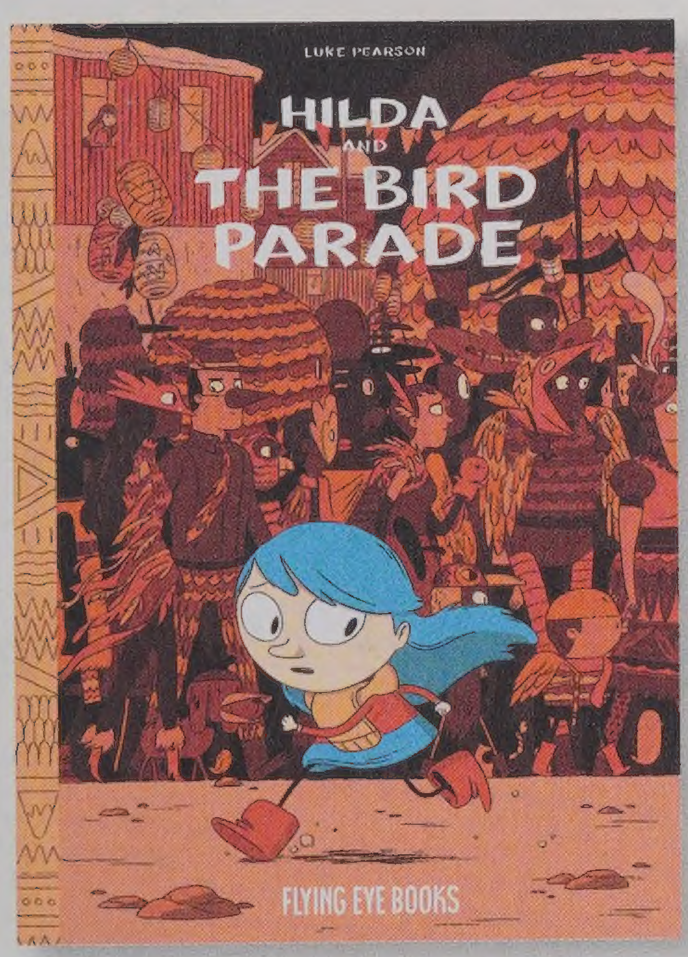

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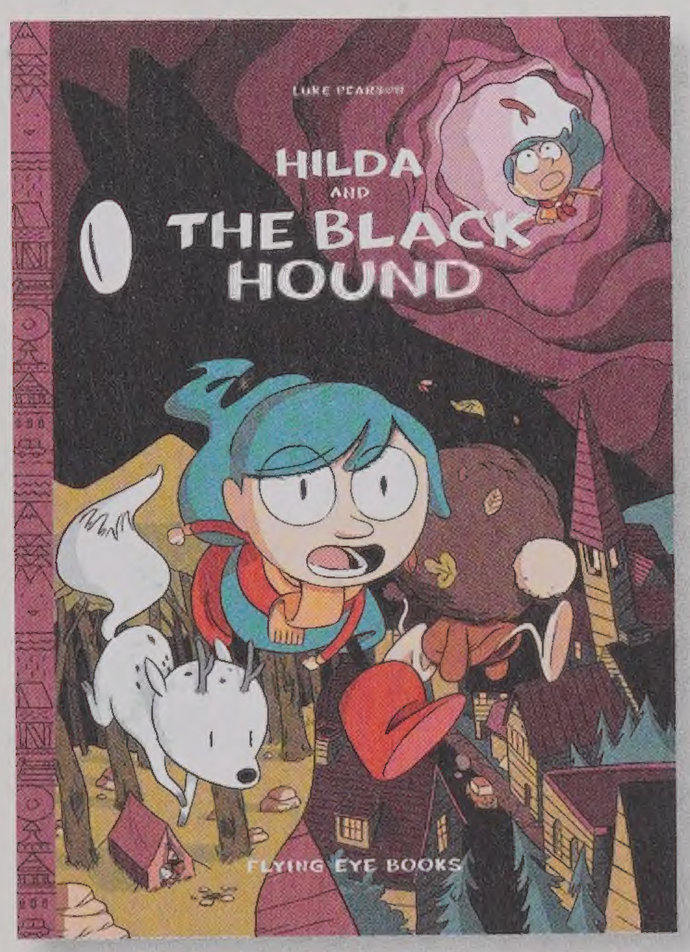

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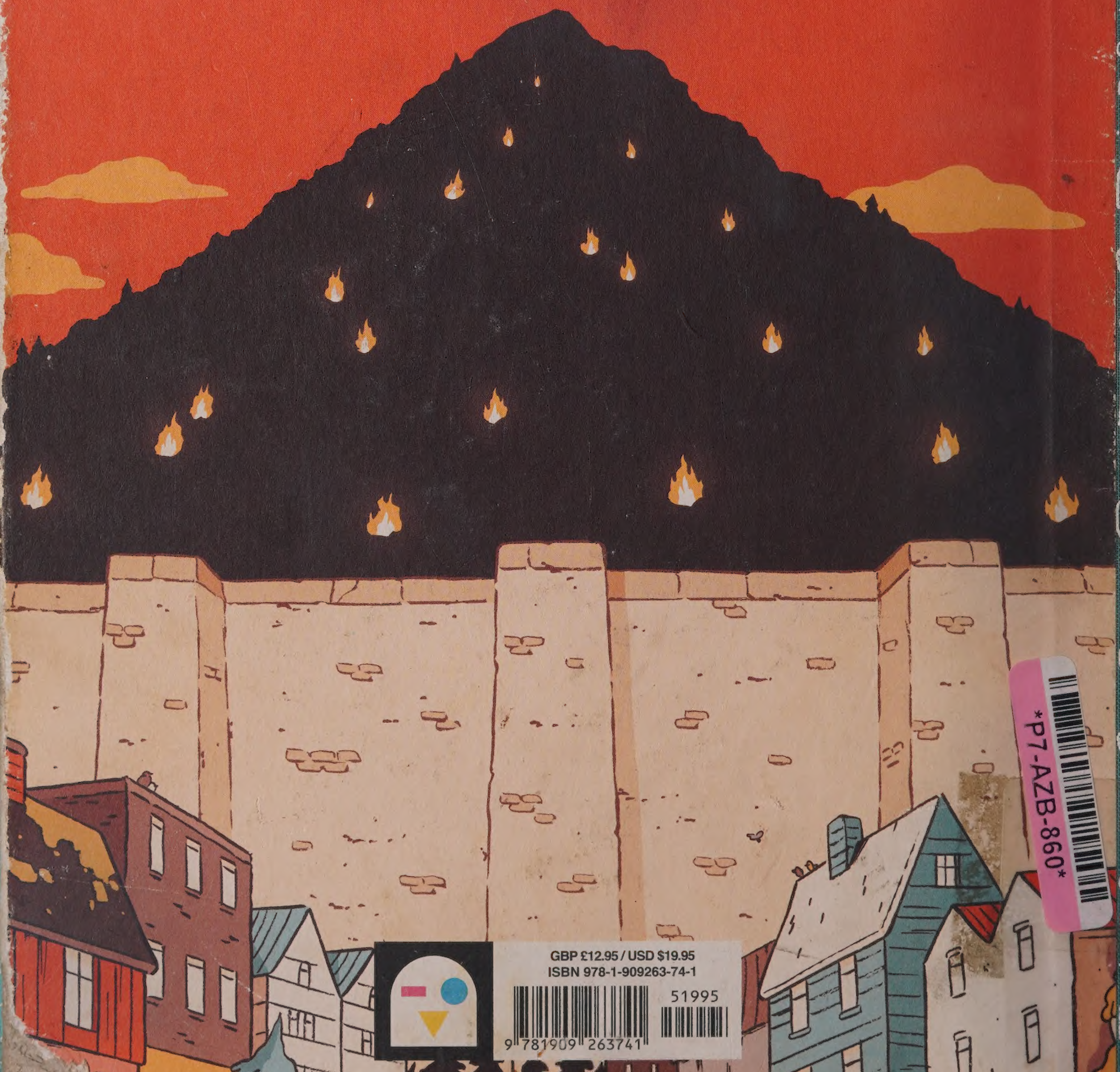

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